(iv) All the State/Union Territories Government have been requested to implement the recommendations of the Policy Advisory Groups on wood substitution and fuelwood conservation.

(v) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forest lands for non-forestry purposes without prior approval of the Central Government.

(vi) A total of 13,900 sq. km of the forest area of North Eastern States has been declared as National Parks and Sancturies.

(vii) Central assistance of Rs. 2.85 crores has been given to State of Meghalaya in 1993-94 and 1994-95 for acquisition of private lands for extension and restoration of Elephant habitate.

Rail Fare Concession to Senior Citizens

*233. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been persistent demands for extending the fare concession to senior citizens in respect of different classes of,rail travel above second class;

(b) if so, Government's decision in this regard; and

(c) the estimated loss of revenue per annum in case the travel concession to senior citizens are extended in respect of travels upto second class-AC-two tier and three-tier?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to financial constraints, it has not been possible to extend the concession to higher classes.

(c) if the concession is extended to A.C. two tier and A.C. three tier classes, the approximate loss on this is estimated to be Rs. 10 Crores per annum.

Recruitment in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan

*234. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD.
SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI.

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that promotional quota for different categories of employees of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan is filled first and recruitment for open quota (direct quota) follows thereafter; and

(b) the reasons and justification, if any, for not adhering to the said provision with regard to recruitment to the post of LDCs?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SR. BOMMAI): (a) and (b) In accordance with the guidelines approved by the Board of Governors of the 'Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, the following is the sequence in respect of promotional posting/transfer etc. of teachers including Vice-Principal, Principal and above:—

(1) Posting on promotion;

(2) Intra-regional Transfer;

(3) Intra-regional Transfer;

(4) Posting on direct recruitment.

No guidelines regarding the sequence for posting of non-teaching staff including the posts of LDCs have been laid down.

Protection of Jantar Mantar

*235. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA.

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report in the "Times of India", dated October 20, 1996 captioned "Unitech's shadow over Jantar Mantar";

(b) if so, the steps taken to ensure that no high building is constructed within 100 metres of a protected monument and no construction takes places withour obtaining a "No objection certificate" from Archaeological Survey of India (ASI); and

(c) at what distance from outer periphery of Jantar Mantar the Unitech building is prbposed to be constructed and whether an NOC has been sought-for or obtained?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the provisions of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Rules, 19S9 construction within 100 metres of a protected monument is prohibited and within further 200 metres is regulated. Vigil in this regard is accordingly maintained by the field offices of the Archaeological Survey of India.

(c) The site of the building proposed by M/s Unitech would be 177 metres from the protected monument. M/s Unitech have applied to the Archaeological Survey of India for permission to construct. No decision has been taken in this behalf so far.

Maintenance of Railway Coaches

*236. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines for the maintenance of the Railway coaches, especially the llnd sleeper, First Class and A/C Sleeper coaches;

(b) whether the maintenance is delayed and periodical inspection is not done by the staff; and

(c) if so, the steps taken for the proper maintenance of the coaches?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Guidelines for maintenance of railway coaches of all types including llnd sleeper. First Class and A/C sleeper coaches are embodied in the coaching maintenance manual. This manual has been recently upgraded and revised.

(b) Scheduled maintenance is given as provided in the manual.

(c) Does not arise.

Shortcomings in the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Maharashtra

*237. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are regularly monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the Mid-day Meal Scheme at the district and State level in the State of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the shortcomings noticed in the implementation of the Scheme in the State;

(c) the number of primary classes children enrolled for the Scheme in Nagpur district; and

(d) the remedial measures Government propose to take to plug the loopholes in the implementation of the Scheme in the State, particulary in Nagpur and Vidarbha regions of the State?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SR. BOMMAI): (a) Government of Maharashtra has constituted a Committee chaired by the Chief Secretary to review implementation of the Mid-day Meal Scheme in the State. At district level, a Committee chaired by District Education Officer has been entrusted with the task of reviewing the implementation of the scheme.

(b) No major short-comings have so far been brought to the notice of this Department by the State Government.

(c) According to information, furnished by Government of Maharashtra 48,609 students in primary classes in four EAS blocks in Nagpur district have been covered under the scheme so far.

(d) According to this Department's guidelines, coverage of all the remaining blocks in the country is envisaged in 1997-98. This includes uncovered blocks in Nagpur and Vidarbha regions of Maharashtra.

Introduction of Yoga Education in Government Schools

*238. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce Yoga education in all Government schools in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the Yoga education is likely to be started in all Govemment schools?